



STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR  
GEOLOGISTS AND GEOPHYSICISTS  
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## INFORMATION ON LICENSURE AS A CERTIFIED HYDROGEOLOGIST

Hydrogeology means the application of the science of geology to the study of the occurrence, distribution, quantity and movement of water below the surface of the earth, as it relates to the interrelationships of geologic materials and processes with water, with particular emphasis given to groundwater quality. (§3003(h), CCR\*)

### **REQUIREMENTS** (§7842, B&P Code and §3042, CCR)

- **Licensure** – must be licensed as a Registered Geologist in the State of California
- **Experience** – must have professional hydrogeological work experience that includes **either** a minimum of:

three years performed under the supervision of a Certified Hydrogeologist

**or**

five years experience in responsible charge of professional hydrogeologic work.

Experience in hydrogeology used to qualify for licensure as a Registered Geologist may also be used to qualify for licensure as a Certified Hydrogeologist.

**Supervisor References.** The Board requires three supervisor references as part of the application. The references must be from either Registered Geologists or Certified Hydrogeologists who have a minimum of five years of experience in responsible charge of hydrogeological work. Civil engineers do not qualify as references even though they or their firms may be doing work in hydrogeology.

The applicant must send a Supervisor Reference Form **and** a copy of his or her completed application to each supervisory reference verifying qualifying experience. Applications will not be processed unless the references are complete.

**Professional geologic work** is work performed at a professional level rather than at a subprofessional or apprentice level and requires the application of scientific knowledge, principles and methods of geological problems through the exercise of individual initiative and judgment in investigating, measuring, interpreting and reporting on the physical phenomena of the earth. Implicit in this definition is the recognition of professional responsibility and integrity and the acknowledgement of minimal supervision.

\*California Code of Regulations

*The Mission of the State Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists is to Continuously Enhance the Quality, Value and Availability of Geological and Geophysical Services Offered to the People of California*

Professional geological work specifically does **not** include:

- routine activities such as drafting, sampling, sample preparation, routine laboratory work, etc., where the elements of initiative, scientific judgment and decision making are lacking,
- activities that do not use scientific methods to process and interpret geologic data,
- soils engineering, soils sampling, soils testing or other activities in or related to the agricultural application of soils sciences, and
- mining, mining engineering or other engineering disciplines and/or other physical sciences wherein geological investigation, analysis and interpretation are minimal or lacking.

**Responsible charge** means a position whereby a person having individual control and direction of a geological project exercises individual initiative, skill and judgment in the investigation and interpretation of geological features, or the supervision of such projects. An individual can be considered to be in responsible charge even though not registered and working as a subordinate employee to a Registered Geologist or qualified geologist.